



## **GIVENS BLACK WRITERS COLLABORATIVE RETREAT PROGRAM 2011-2012 WRITER APPLICATION INFORMATION**

*For more than 25 years, the Givens Foundation for African American Literature has been the only organization in Minnesota exclusively dedicated to advancing and celebrating black literature and writers. At the Givens Foundation, we understand that emerging African American writers are the future of African American literature. This is one reason that we developed the Givens Black Writers Collaborative Retreat Program to promote the “writing life,” the honing of literary craft, the production of new works, and professional development for participating writers.*

### **Collaborative Retreat Program Quick Facts**

**What:** A program for 10 emerging black writers living in Minnesota that includes a four-day retreat, writing workshops, one-on-one mentoring, peer support, and a writers’ performance series.

**Retreat Dates:** Nov. 3 -- 6, 2011 (4 days, 3 nights)

**Retreat Location:** Minnesota Humanities Center, St. Paul ([www.minnesotahumanities.org/conferencefacility](http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/conferencefacility))

**Mentoring Writers:** Percival Everett (National) & Philip S. Bryant (State)

**Mentoring Workshops:** November 2011 through June 2012

**Cost:** Free (sponsored by the Jerome Foundation)

### **Eligibility Criteria**

In November of 2011, ten emerging black writers will be selected to participate in the collaborative retreat program. For this program, we will strive to have participants represent a balanced distribution of ages, genders, and geographic residence within the state of Minnesota. Applications will be subject to blind review by a panel of three local African American writers.

### **Selected participants will:**

- Be aged 18 and older
- Be identified as emerging artists (writers who exhibit significant potential yet are not recognized as established creators by fellow artists and other arts professionals; not yet or only recently published or produced)
- Not be enrolled in an academic literary arts program.
- Not be past participants in the Givens Black Writers Collaborative Retreat.
- Be required to participate in Post-Retreat Activities including workshops and literary performances.

**Check out [www.givens.org](http://www.givens.org) for more information about the  
2011-2012 Givens Black Writers Collaborative Retreat Program. Application forms also available online.**

## GIVENS BLACK WRITERS COLLABORATIVE RETREAT PROGRAM

### Application Instructions 2011

To apply for the 2011-2012 Givens Black Writers Collaborative Retreat Program, complete and return the following in English. **Failure to adhere to the guidelines below will render your application ineligible.** Applicants also have the option to submit electronically, however, the deadline is the same.

❑ **The Writer Application Form**

Electronic submission file name should be: *Lastname\_app.doc*.

❑ **Artistic Goal Statement:** In no more than **one typed page**, provide a compelling Artistic Goal Statement, an explanation of how the retreat and related activities would support your artistic development. Your statement should answer the following questions:

1. What are your goals as a writer for the next year?
2. How would you measure your progress towards your goals?
3. What specific obstacles are you facing in your development as a writer?
4. How would participation in the collaborative retreat program support the accomplishment of your goals and the overcoming of your obstacles? Provide specific examples.
5. How would participation in a writing collaborative/community support your artistic goals? Provide specific examples.

Electronic submission for *Artistic Goal Statement* should be submitted in the same e-document as the *Artistic Bio* below (NOTE: the total document can be no more than **two** pages).

❑ **Artistic Bio: One Page** that includes a listing of publications, performances, and/or produced recordings.

Electronic submission file name should be: *Last Name\_biogoal.doc*

❑ **Writing samples:** Written text of no more than 10 pages, **clean copy – no names or identifying information on sample pages**. These samples will be read by the Collaborative Retreat Program Application Review Panel and the mentoring authors. Writing samples should demonstrate a voice committed to advancing the African American literary tradition.

Electronic submission file name should be: *Lastname\_wrksample.doc*

❑ **Electronic Submissions:** File types should be MS Word or a format that can be read in MS Word. Send a single message (Subject: *Your Name Retreat Application*) with the following attachments:

Application:                      *Lastname\_app.doc*  
Artist Goal and Bio:            *Lastname\_goalbio.doc*  
Work samples:                    *Lastname\_wrksample.doc*

**Completed Applications Must Be Received at the Givens Foundation Office or via email to [retreat@givens.org](mailto:retreat@givens.org) by:**

**OCTOBER 14, 2011 no later than 5:00 PM**

Check out [www.givens.org](http://www.givens.org) for more information about the 2011-2012 Givens Black Writers Collaborative Retreat Program. Application forms also available online.



## 2011-2012 GIVENS BLACK WRITERS COLLABORATIVE RETREAT PROGRAM

### Writer Application Form

**Applicant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Submission Type:**

- Email                       Post

Select the literary genre that will be the focus of your work at the retreat:

- Fiction                       Spoken Word                       Creative Non-Fiction\* (essay, memoir)  
 Poetry                       Plays (theatrical & film)

\* academic & journalistic writing will not be considered for the purposes of this application

Please complete the following optional demographic information to assist with retreat planning and logistics:

**Gender:**

- Male  
 Female  
 Transgender

**Age:**

- 18 -- 25  
 26 -- 35  
 36 -- 45  
 46 -- 64  
 65+

**Geographic Residence:**

- Minneapolis/St. Paul  
 Duluth  
 Rural/Out State Minnesota

**Send Applications**

**Mail to:**

The Givens Foundation for African American Literature  
Retreat Program 2011  
7151 York Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55435

**Email to :**

[retreat@givens.org](mailto:retreat@givens.org)

Send a single message (Subject: *Your Name Retreat Application*) with the following attachments:

Application:                      Lastname\_app.doc  
Artist Goal and Bio:              Lastname\_goalbio.doc  
Work samples:                      Lastname\_wrksample.doc

**Submissions Must Be Received by October 14, 2011.**

Please direct application questions to Eartha Bell, 612-735-5116 or email [retreat@givens.org](mailto:retreat@givens.org).

Selected applicants will be notified by October 22, 2011.

The Givens Foundation for African American Literature  
**Bios for Retreat Mentoring Writers 2011-2012**



**National Mentoring Writer: Percival Everett**

*"If part of the mission of the artist is to expand the thinking of the culture in which he exists, I have my work cut out for me." —Percival Everett*

Percival Everett is the author of nearly twenty novels, three collections of short fiction, and two volumes of poetry. Among his novels are *Assumption* (Graywolf, 2011), *I Am Not Sidney Poitier* (2009), *The Water Cure* (2008), *Wounded*, *Glyph*, *Erasure*, *American Desert*, *For Her Dark Skin*, *Zulus*, *Cutting Lisa*, *Watershed*, and *God's Country*. *Swimming Swimmers Swimming* is his newest collection of poems (Red Hen Press, 2011). He is the recipient of the PEN Center USA Award for Fiction, the Academy Award from an American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, The Believer Book Award, The Vallombrosa Von Rezzori Prize, the PEN/Oakland-Josephine Miles Award for Excellence in Literature, and a New American Writing Award. His stories have been included in the Pushcart Prize Anthology and Best American Short Stories. He has served as a judge for, among others, the 1997 National Book Award for fiction and the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction in 1991. He teaches fiction writing and critical theory and is currently Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Southern California. With these novels and collections of stories to his credit, Everett has developed a reputation as a wordsmith. One critic describes him as a lyrical writer, whose "stark and sometimes powerful prose" leaves a lasting impression. His 1994 book *God's Country* drew measured praise from the New York Times: "[The novel] starts sour, then abruptly turns into Cowpoke Absurdism, ending with an acute hallucination of blood, hate and magic. It's worth the wait. The novel sears." He has worked as a musician, a horse trainer, and a teacher. He lives with his wife and two sons in Los Angeles.



**State Mentoring Writer: Philip Bryant**

From 1989 to the present Philip Bryant, a native of Chicago has taught at Gustavus Adolphus College, where he is currently a Professor of English. He has had poems published in *The Iowa Review*, *The Indiana Review*, *The American Poetry Review*, and *Nimrod*. Crossroads Press published *Blue Island*, a chapbook of his poetry in 1997. New Rivers press released *Sermon on a Perfect Spring Day* in 1998. *Sermon on a Perfect Spring Day* was nominated for a Minnesota Book Award and a Forward Award in 1999. He also appeared in the poetry anthology edited by

Pamela Gemin, *Are You Experienced*, published by the Iowa University Press. In the spring, 2007, he appeared in *Where One Voice Ends Another Begins: 150 Years of Minnesota Poetry*, edited by Robert Hedin, published by Minnesota Historical Society Press. He appeared in the *Blueroad Reader* published by Blueroad Press in July 2007. Blueroad Press published his collection of Jazz poems, *Stompin' at the Grand Terrace* along with accompanying CD in Spring 2009. A section of *Stompin' at the Grand Terrace* published in the August 2009 edition of the *Utne Reader* was selected to be included in the anthology, *Best Music Writing 2010*, edited by Ann Powers, published by De Capo Press, and was released in the fall of 2010. Most recently his poems have appeared in two anthologies published in the spring of 2011. He is included in *American Tensions: Literature and the Search for Social Justice*, edited by William Reichard, and *Good Poems: American Places*, Selected and Introduced by Garrison Keillor. His audio essays have appeared on Minnesota Public Radio's *Morning Edition* and *All things Considered*.